

**REMARKS**

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated December 1, 2006. Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-13 and 15-18 are currently pending in the application. Claims 3, 5-6, and 8 are canceled at this time. Claim 18 was allowed. No new matter is added by the present amendments.

Claim 18 is amended to clarify that the telephony protocol to which the blank time slots are applied is the synchronous protocol.

The remaining claims have been amended to depend from allowed claim 18.

All of the issues raised by the Examiner have been dealt with. In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are allowable over the cited reference. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Moynihan
Registration No. 40,338

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